

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01882 061006Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 COME-00
EB-07 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 IGA-02 XMB-02 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 /082 W
-----061011Z 080835 /15

R 060928Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4552
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ROME
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1882

DEPT ALSO FOR AID

ROME FOR FODAG

BRUSSELS FOR USMISSION EC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, EAID, EAGR, SU, US, XF
SUBJECT: AAAID ALMOST READY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 2096, (B) KHARTOUM 995

1. ACCORDING TO KHALED TAHSIN ALI, KEY ARAB FUND OFFICIAL INVOLVED WITH ESTABLISHMENT ARAB AUTHORITY FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (AAAID), NOW SUFFICIENT NUMBER ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE RATIFIED BASIC CHARTER AND GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG THIRTEEN PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01882 061006Z

REACHED, AAID SHOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS SOON. DURING MEETING HERE JUNE 4 WHICH HE REQUESTED, HE SAID FIELD OF CANDIDATES TO HEAD ORGANIZATION HAS NARROWED TO THREE, AND HE EXPECTS ONE OF THEM WILL BE SELECTED WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN MID-JULY THERE WILL BE MEEEEING IN KHARTOUM AT WHICH TIME AAAID SHOULD FORMALLY BEGIN OPERATIONS. FIRST TASK WILL BE FOR SOME 14 EXPERTS TO REVIEW IN DEPTH SPECIFIC AAAID ACTIVITIES.

ALI CONCEDED THAT HE AND OTHERS HAD BEEN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC REGARDING HOW QUICKLY AAAID COULD GET OFF GROUND. HE NOTED DIFFICULTIES IN GAINING AGREEMENT OF THIRTEEN PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, BASIC AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN ACHIEVED AND AAAID SHOULD BE A REALITY VERY SOON.

2. AFTER PROVIDING ABOVE BACKGROUND AND AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON CURRENT US-SUDAN RELATIONS, ALI URGED THAT USG BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH AAAID. HE SAID EEC AND OTHER DONORS LIKELY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ORGANIZATION, AND HE EMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANCE DEVELOPMENT OF SUDAN TO FUTURE WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES. HE SAID MATTER DESERVES ATTENTION HIGHEST LEVELS USG AND WE SHOULD MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO SUDANESE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. ALI THINKS AAAID CAN PLAY USEFUL COORDINATING ROLE AND CAN ALSO BE CATALYST IN DRAWING ARAB FUNDS TO SUDAN. THUS, AAAID CAN PLAY KEY ROLE IN MARRYING ARAB AND US/WESTERN RESOURCES IN SUDAN.

3. IN REPLY I AGREED THAT SUDAN AND AAAID COULD BE POTENTIALLY VERY IMPORTANT. I NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN GROWING INTEREST IN AAAID, PARTICULARLY IN US PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT UNTIL ORGANIZATION IS ACTUALLY FUNCTIONING IT DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC IDEAS. AS FOR BRINGING ALI'S VIEWS TO ATTENTION HIGHEST LEVELS USG, I SUGGESTED THAT ARAB LEADERS DO SO DURING THEIR MEETINGS WITH TOP US OFFICIALS. OTHERWISE, IT MY VIEW THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE OF CONTINUING NATURE AND THIS WILL BE EASIER ONCE NEW AMBASSADOR AND EXPANDED AID MISSION AS WELL AS AAAID HEADQUARTERS ARE ALL HERE. THUS, BY END SUMMER KEY PEOPLE SHOULD ALL BE IN KHARTOUM AND CONTINUING DIALOGUE
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PAGE 03 KHARTO 01882 061006Z

ALI DESIRES CAN BEGIN. HE AGREED.

4. COMMENT: ALI ENVISAGES AAAID PLAYING CENTRAL ROLE IN MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR DEVELOPMENT SUDANESE AGRICULTURE AND IN TURN HE SEES DEVELOPMENT SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AS BEING OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. HE FORESEES AAAID AS COORDINATING BROAD INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN SUDAN, AND HE CONSIDERS FULL US PARTICIPATION VERY IMPORTANT. MOREOVER HE THINKS AAAID-USG RELATIONSHIP HERE CAN BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. HE IS PROBABLY RIGHT, BUT GIVEN TREMENDOUS SCOPE AAAID PROGRAM HERE, IT CLEAR TIME WILL BE NEEDED FOR IT TO BECOME FULLY EFFECTIVE. MOREOVER, WE SHOULD BE ALERT AND SENSITIVE TO SUDANGOV-AAAID RELATIONSHIP, ALTHOUGH ALI CLAIMS SUDANGOV HAS NEVER BEEN LESS THAN FULLY COOPERATIVE. ON BALANCE, BELIEVE USG SHOULD LOOK TOWARD DEVELOPING LONG TERM, CONTINUING AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH AAAID. BELIEVE THIS WILL ENHANCE OUR OVERALL EFFORTS IN SUDAN, BUT RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE ALLOWED EVOLVE NATURALLY OVER TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO01882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770200-0786
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770688/aaaacyxx.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab80b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 2096, 77 KHARTOUM 995
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2266017
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AAAID ALMOST READY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS
TAGS: EINV, EAID, EAGR, SU, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab80b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009